

# Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction

## Chapter 55 Joint Task Force

### Work Session Expected Outcomes Summary – September 13-14, 2011

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#### Purpose

To review and revise the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55 Standards of Accreditation to align the standards with current innovative practice providing flexibility and ensuring quality education and accountability.

#### Charge

The Chapter 55 Joint Task Force shall provide to the state Superintendent and the BPE recommendations for amendments to ARM 10.55. Recommended amendments to ARM will comply with Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) rules for public hearing.

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By Wednesday afternoon, September 14, the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force will:

1. Come to consensus on the purpose of Montana's Blended Accreditation Model; September Task Force meeting began with a presentation by Co-Chair Parman providing more detail, which allowed the Task Force to continue to "try on" the Montana's Blended Accreditation Model refining the look, feel, and message of the model.  
Following the presentation and general discussion, the Task Force engaged in an individual and group reflection activity.

When I think of the Montana's proposed Blended Accreditation Model,

1. I have these unanswered questions/concerns ...
2. The following ideas make sense to me ...
3. I have these additional comments ...

The comments from the Task Force are attached.

2. Come to consensus on concepts needing agreement;  
Co-Chair Parman asked the Task Force to consider concepts needing agreement and to indicate "thumbs up" or thumbs down" as to agreement with the statement. The Task Force decisions on these concepts needing agreement are listed below.



- Four color-coded levels are acceptable for both Stages [Thumbs Up](#)
- If Stage 1 has any level other than Meets Standard (Green), that level will be the highest Accreditation Level possible for the given school regardless of performance at Stage 2. [Needs more work](#)
- The rule “chunks” are acceptable for Stage 1. [Thumbs Up](#)
- 1.5 Standard Deviations from the Mean is an acceptable cut-off for Stage 2 [Needs more work](#)
- Calculating cut-offs by grade level is acceptable for Stage 2 [Needs more work](#)
- Using Graduation and Drop-Out Rates are acceptable for high schools for Stage 2 [Thumbs Up](#)
- Not using any Progress Reporting is acceptable [Needs more work](#)
- Middle and Elementary Schools with varying numbers of Performance Criteria categories in Stage 2 is acceptable. [Needs more work](#)
- The Accreditation Process Description is acceptable. [Needs more work](#)

### 3. Refine Montana’s Accreditation Model;

[Task Force members provided individual and group comments on unanswered questions, what made sense to them, and additional comments. Co-chair Parman reviewed the purpose of a blended accreditation model and concepts needing agreement. Parman asked the Task Force for a vote on this question: “Is there a sense of agreement to move forward with Blended Model?” Which elements have agreement? Which areas do not? See section 2 above for the results of other questions asked by Co-Chair Parman.](#)

[The Task Force agreed to move forward with the Blended Model.](#)

[Review and refine draft rule language from Phase I;](#)

[At the September 2011 work session, the Task Force reviewed the suggested changes, in total, considering each standard within Chapter 55 as to whether the standard is "okay for now" or "needs more work." The work of the Task Force was posted to the OPI webpage open for public comment.](#)

[At the upcoming October Task Force meeting, those items identified as “Needs Work” will be addressed by the Task Force seeking the greatest level of consensus possible, but not requiring unanimous consensus. In cases where there are small numbers of Task Force members not supporting a rule recommendation, a “Minority Report” will be asked for by these members and issued with the](#)



recommendation to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to consider before she makes her recommendations to the Board of Public Education.

A subcommittee has been formed to rewrite 10.55.604 Variances to Standards ARM in an effort to provide an avenue to seek greater flexibility in the application of the Accreditation Standards by schools while maintaining quality and achievement. The first meeting of this subcommittee will be Wednesday, October 12, at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Helena.

4. Report progress of Chapter 55 Task Force to constituents;  
Claudette Morton presented draft communication material with the Task Force. The Task Force reviewed a draft flyer of the Chapter 55 review process and talking points for use by Task Force members volunteering to make presentations to constituent groups and the public. Reports from these presentations will be heard at the October Task Force meeting.
5. Agree to post “Responses from the Field” to the Chapter 55 Task Force online work site.  
The sections of Chapter 55 reviewed by the Task Force were posted to the OPI webpage with a call for comments from the field. Responses from the field will be made available online, as these comments are collected.

Next Meeting – Save the Date

- **October 12-13, 2011      Location – Holiday Inn Downtown - Helena**

